

CROSSSECTION



SWCD ELECTION GETS A "NEW LOOK"

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Special points of interest:

- Details on the 2004 Annual Meeting
- Avoiding a summer fish kill
- Photography contest theme announced
- Woodlot management tips
- Farmer For A Day camp

Lake County residents attending our annual meeting this year will find the voting process for SWCD board members to be very similar to voting in the general election.

Upon arrival at our annual meeting, attendees will immediately be directed to the election registration table where election officials will find your name in the election registry. Voters will sign next to their name to verify their eligibility, be given a ballot and proceed to a nearby voting booth, where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box.

This year's banquet begins at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 7, 2004 at

DeRubertis Party Center, 6521 North Ridge Rd., Madison, OH 44057.

This year we will be electing one board member. The nominees are Paris Wolfe-Ferrante of Concord Township and Carol Fleck of Painesville.

County residents and landowners have two other options for voting for SWCD board members. They may call or stop by the district office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the district office on October 7, 2004, between 7:30 AM and 12 Noon.

If you would like more information about the election or have questions about these new procedures, please contact our office at 440-350-2730.

KEEPING SEWAGE IN ITS PLACE

Compared to sewage discharges from some of Ohio's municipal treatment plants, a faulty septic system here or there might seem like a minor problem. But consider that more than a million Ohio households process wastewater through individual sewage treatment systems. Of those, the Ohio Department of Health estimates 25 percent are failing. Not only do those failing systems contribute to water quality problems, they can be serious public health threats.

To avoid being part of the problem, watch for signs of failure in your existing system and make sure any new systems are properly designed for the site and conditions.

System failures aren't always easy to see. For instance, a faulty system on extremely permeable soils might let nutrients and pathogens leach into groundwater, contaminating wells. On shallow soils and soils with low permeability, faulty systems are more likely to pollute surface water. Watch for sewage

pooling on the soil surface or running into ditches or creeks. Besides being a smelly nuisance, this discharge can spread disease and provide breeding sites for mosquitoes.

Some systems fail because the site is inappropriate for the type of system installed. Others fail because they aren't properly maintained. For instance, if a septic tank is not pumped often enough, sediment will flow into the leach bed or absorption area, clogging the system. Systems also fail if they are overloaded with water from household use or surface drainage.

Eventually, all systems wear out when tanks or pipes break down. Even a well-maintained system will need to be upgraded or replaced after 20 or 30 years. Modern systems are also more effective than many of the systems installed years ago.

If you're not sure how your system operates or how it should be main-

(Continued on page 5)

A BUMPER CROP OF FARMERS FOR A DAY

This summer, over 90 kids from Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties participated in Farmer For A Day. The one-day camp, hosted by Spring Hill Farm Market, introduces participants to agriculture and farm life.

As kids arrive, they dress the part of farmer by wearing straw hats. The morning is spent in making rain sticks, touring the fields on a hay ride, and trying their hands at fishing with a bamboo pole. They learn about seasons of the year, and all the work that go into producing a crop. Before lunch, each child plants their own pizza garden, including wheat, basil, oregano, tomatoes, onions and peppers.

In the afternoon, the focus shifts to livestock. Participants learn how dairy products are made. They then get to try their hands at milking a model cow and turning cream into real butter. A visit to the animals at the petting area rounds out the afternoon. Kids get to meet a rooster, a rabbit, dairy goats and miniature horses. At the end of the day, everyone enjoys the shade of an apple tree and a round of Harvest Bingo with prizes.

Farmer For A Day is a project of Western Reserve RC&D in cooperation with Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula SWCDs. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for next year's camp, contact Hope Swank at 350-2061.



KANE, MICHELLE AND CASSIE PLANT THEIR PIZZA GARDENS

SUMMER SUPERVISORS SCHOOL



For Changing Landscapes

The 59th Annual Summer Supervisors School was held in Warren July 25-27th. This year's theme was "Conservation Innovations for the Changing Landscape." Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts organizes the event to give SWCD supervisors from across the state a new perspective on conservation basics, and to introduce emerging topics.

Lake SWCD was well represented at this year's event. Board Member Stephanie Beres attended Summer Supervisor's School.

Staff members Dan Donaldson, Pam Brown and Beth Landers also contributed to the three-day event. Brown organized the Auxiliary Tour. This all-day tour showcased historical locations throughout the Western Reserve. They visited an octagonal house, Newton Falls Covered Bridge, Nelson Ledges State Park, Swine Creek Park in Geauga County, and Mesopotamia's general store.

Donaldson teamed up with Dave Ritter of Summit SWCD and Jeffrey Holland of the Medina Land Conservancy to present a two-hour session on conservation easements and the implications of holding one. There was much discussion during the question and answer session on the various ways an easement can be designed and the legal implications of some scenarios.

Landers joined forces with Beth Schnabel of Medina SWCD and Jan Rybka from Cuyahoga SWCD to present a session on NEO PIPE, a regional group working to develop and implement stormwater education. They discussed the origins of the group, current projects and programs, and some of the lessons learned along the way.

Lake County SWCD was also awarded first place for their static display on Lake County's watersheds. Beres accepted the award at the Awards Luncheon.

Look for us at the Lake County Fair, August 17-22!

LOCAL TEACHERS TAKE TO THE RIVERS, LAKES AND WOODS

This June, Lake and Geauga SWCDs hosted the Wonders of Watersheds Workshop. Eight teachers from Lake, Geauga and Portage counties participated in this week-long workshop that focused on using the environment as a teaching tool. Workshop participants visited many natural areas, including Holden Arboretum and Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve. One afternoon was spent at Hidden Valley Metropark studying the Grand River. After observing an electrofishing demonstration by ODNR Division of Wildlife biologists, the teachers got to see some of the diverse species of fish that inhabit the upper Grand River.

They then tried their hands at macroinvertebrate sampling and identification.

Over the course of the week, teachers were introduced to many of the great local resources. They also were certified in Project WET, Project Wild and Project Learning Tree, three natural resources curriculum guidebooks. In addition, teachers who participated in the workshop were able to give the SWCDs feedback on current and potential educational program offerings, as well as learning how programs were going to fit within the new standards set by the Ohio Department of Education for science curriculum.

You're Invited...

58th Annual Meeting and Banquet

Make plans to join us on Thursday, October 7^h for the Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting. It will be held at DeRubertis Party Center on North Ridge Road in Madison. Activities will begin at 6 PM with a social hour – a great time to check out our informational displays. Dinner will be a delicious buffet of ham and turkey at 7:00 PM.

Activities planned include a special presentation “**Open Space Projects, Endless Benefits**” by Elaine Marsh, Project Director for Ohio Greenways; awards to various individuals, families and businesses in Lake County; and highlights of the District's conservation accomplishments over the past year.

The Election for two Board Supervisors to serve terms of three years, from 2005 through 2007 will be conducted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to vote in the election, there are two ways to cast an absentee ballot. You may contact the District Office to receive an application for an absentee ballot. Applications must be returned in a timely manner to receive an official absentee ballot. Votes may also be cast between 7:30 and 12:00 on October 7th at the Lake SWCD office. Voters must be Lake County residents or landowners and be 18 years or older.

The evening will conclude with our Door Prize Extravaganza!

Reservations are required! Tickets are \$20.00 each and can be obtained from the District Office or any Board or Staff member until September 30th. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones there!?

Become a Lake SWCD Board Supervisor!

This October, the Lake Soil & Water Conservation District will elect two supervisors to fill terms that expire in 2004. Does this sound like something that might interest you?

What is the SWCD Board? The Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Board is a five member governing body for the SWCD. Supervisors are elected to three-year terms. The supervisors serve as volunteers and are granted specific powers under Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code. Anyone who is a resident of Lake County and at least 18 years old may run for Board Supervisor. Conservation is a critical issue for Lake County, and the need for conservation leaders is essential.

What does the SWCD Board do? The SWCD Board determines the policies that set the direction for the work that the SWCD staff carries out in the county. They also determine the need for additional staff and work with local and state government to obtain funding for the programs they feel are necessary.

How much time does it take to be a board supervisor? There are twelve regular monthly board meetings, which are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month at the District Office. The meetings begin at 7 PM and usually last a couple of hours. There are also a few special meetings, such as the Lake SWCD Annual Meeting, and opportunities to attend area, state and national events with other SWCD supervisors.

If you are interested in becoming a Board Supervisor or have more questions, simply contact the District Office at 440-350-2730.

RESERVATIONS

DEADLINE: September 30, 2004

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

OF GUESTS _____ NAMES OF GUESTS _____

TICKETS ARE \$20 PER PERSON AND WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR
Make checks payable to Lake SWCD, 125 E. Erie St., Painesville, Ohio 44077

2004 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Lake County SWCD, in conjunction with the Lake County Stormwater Management Department, and NEO PIPE, is sponsoring a photography contest. This year's theme will be "Clean Water Starts With You" and entries will be judged based on theme, composition, originality, and technical excellence. The winning entry will receive \$100, and second place \$50. Anyone who lives or owns land in Lake County is eligible to enter up to 3 photographs. Entries may be 35mm black and white or color images, or prints of high-resolution digital (600dpi or more). Each submission must be 5x7 or 8x10 and be accompanied by a separate entry form. Deadline for entry is November 30th. For more information and complete rules, visit the Lake SWCD web site, or call Beth at (440)350-2730.

CLEAN WATER STARTS WITH YOU!

Each one of us has a daily impact on our water resources. Use your creativity and artistic skills to capture these interactions on film. Show us:

- ? People cleaning up a watershed
- ? A construction project that is protecting the local water resources
- ? Recreation that benefits from clean water
- ? A local project to improve water quality
- ? Facilities that make it easier for people to protect their water
- ? Volunteers monitoring water quality
- ? A healthy waterway due to human actions
- ? People who rely on clean water for their livelihood
- ? Watershed education projects, or
- ? Anything else that represents the theme "Clean Water Starts With You"

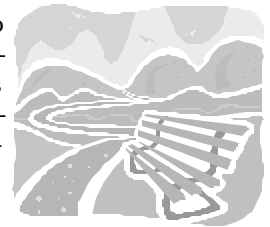
BENEFITS OF PRESERVING OPEN SPACE TO BE DISCUSSED AT ANNUAL MEETING

A greenway is a protected corridor that connects natural features. These can take the form of a converted rail bed, canalway, riverside footpath, or even a scenic route along a country road. The greenway is used by people moving between parks or from an urban center to a park or other open space.

Greenways are an important consideration in urban planning. They can have a multitude of economic, environmental, aesthetic, health and safety, and educational benefits. Protected corridors in Lake County include the Grand River Scenic Corridor, the Chagrin River Scenic Corridor, and the Lake Metroparks Trail.

Elaine Marsh will be giving a presentation on "Open Space Project, Endless Benefits" at the Lake SWCD 2004 Annual Meeting. She is currently the Project Director for Ohio Greenways, an organization working to define and establish a state-wide network of greenways. Ohio Greenways researches greenway issues, educates residents, provides technical assistance to projects, and develops strategies to expand greenways in the state.

Please join us on October 7th to learn more about Ohio Greenways and open space preservation. See Page 3 for details on attending the Annual Meeting, or call our office at 350-2730.



CHECK TREES FOR INSECT INVADERS

It's perfectly normal for trees to have a few insects munching on their leaves or burrowing into their bark. Usually they coexist naturally as part of the same ecosystem. Unfortunately, when insects are introduced into new areas, they don't always have natural predators or environmental conditions to keep populations balanced. That's why it's important to avoid bringing non-native tree pests into Ohio and to act quickly to control them if they're found.

To protect your woodlands and ornamental trees, watch for unusual insect infestations. Over the last few years, Ohio has seen increasing damage from non-native pests, including the following:

- ? **Gypsy Moth**—The gypsy moth caterpillar eats leaves of many species of trees and shrubs, but its favorite is oak.



After a couple years of defoliation, even a healthy tree can be killed. Populations are already established in 43 Ohio counties.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture uses aerial spraying to

suppress the pest in some wooded areas and also treats isolated populations in areas where the pest isn't yet established.

Emerald Ash Borer—So far this pest has been identified in ash trees in Lucas, Defiance, Paulding, Wood, and Franklin Counties, but it may be in other counties too. Most infestations have been traced to ash firewood or trees brought to Ohio from Michigan.

Since Emerald Ash Borer infestations are fatal, infested trees must be destroyed to keep the pest from spreading. The ODA has quarantined movement of firewood and other wood products in some parts of the state.

Beech Bark Disease—This disease is caused by both beech scale insects and fungi that infect wounds left by the feeding insects. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry is watching beech trees in northeast Ohio closely for this problem because the scale insects have been found in a few counties and the disease is killing many trees in Michigan. Individual trees can be saved with insecticide, but widespread treatment of wooded areas isn't financially feasible.

For more information on these and other pests causing concern in Ohio, contact www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry/Health/Health.htm and www.ohioagriculture.gov/

SUMMER POND MANAGEMENT

The warm weather brings us trips to the beach, tall glasses of iced tea, and long evenings to enjoy. It also brings an increasing number of calls to our office from pond owners who have found many of their fish suddenly floating. Summer fish kills are usually the result of natural processes in a pond. Some pond owners might see fish 'piping' or gasping for air, but usually the first sign of a problem is a large number of floating dead fish. While a pond owner's first assumption might be chemical pollution, it is usually a simple issue of suffocation due to low oxygen levels in the water. As water gets warmer, its capacity for holding oxygen diminishes.

There are four major causes of oxygen depletion in a pond. Cloudy, hot, windless days can cause the oxygen content of the water to fall. With limited sunlight, aquatic vegetation does not produce as much oxygen. On a sunny day, photosynthesis builds up oxygen in the water. This is used both by the animals in the pond, as well as the plants after dark. With a prolonged period of overcast days, the oxygen level slowly falls. This leaves fish literally gasping for air. The condition is worst when the air and water temperatures are over 80 degrees and there is no wind to circulate the water in the pond.

Another common cause of fish kill in the summer months is nutrient enrichment. If excessive amounts of phosphorous or nitrogen enter the pond, an algae bloom may be triggered. As the algae die off, decomposers use oxygen from the water column to break down the organic material.

Third, mixing after stratification can lead to oxygen problems. Often a pond will form layers during the summer months. The surface water may be 10-15 degrees warmer than the deeper water. Because of differences in density, the two layers do not mix. The warmer surface layer is well-oxygenated, but the deeper, cooler water becomes depleted over time. A

summer thunderstorm, with its strong winds, and heavy, cold rain can often cause the layers to mix. The average dissolved oxygen content of the pond falls and may fall below the threshold of survival for fish.

Finally, pond maintenance occasionally can lead to a decreased oxygen level. If aquatic herbicides are used to eliminate algae and weeds, not only will photosynthesis decrease, but the decomposing plant matter will pull oxygen from the water column.

So what is the solution? If you are still in the planning phase of your pond, think ahead. Design the shoreline slope and depth of the pond to minimize aquatic vegetation. Ponds should be 8-10 feet deep and have a slope of 3:1. To correct a problem in an existing pond, the landowner should consider aeration and circulation systems. The pond's watershed should also be evaluated for sources of excess nutrients. Lake SWCD is available for free consultation on pond management issues.



OHIO COVERTS PROJECT

Historically, forest management has been done with one goal in mind: generating timber for sale. The COVERTS project in Ohio emphasizes habitat improvements for ruffed grouse, turkey, deer, and other wildlife that depend on a forest habitat. In many cases, the two goals go hand-in-hand. The COVERTS project helps landowners implement a forest wildlife plan, aids these landowners in informing others in their community, and forms a network of woodland owners across the state who have access to forestry and wildlife professionals.



The Ohio COVERTS Project is offering a 2½-day seminar on timber management for the benefit of wildlife. The semi-

nar takes place in and around Jackson, Ohio and is funded by The Ruffed Grouse Society with support from the National Wild Turkey Federation. The Ohio State University Extension and Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry will conduct the seminar. Some of the sessions that will take place at COVERTS include: wildlife habitat, ecology of a wide variety of wildlife species, tree and shrub identification, woodland management, and outreach opportunities. Participants also receive extensive reference materials to take with them.

If you are interested in attending the Ohio COVERTS Project workshop September 23-25th, contact Lake SWCD or go online to woodlandstewards.osu.edu and click on COVERTS under the Classes heading.

(Continued from page 1)

SEWAGE

tained, check with the contractor who installed it or refer to Ohio State University Extension fact sheets on wastewater treatment, available through local offices or at www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~setll (click on "publications"). Information is also available on the Ohio Department of Health website, www.odh.state.oh.us. For help evaluating sites or selecting appropriate systems, check with your local health department or Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District.

WHO WANTS TO BE A CONSERVATIONIST?

Test your knowledge on these summer conservation issues and upcoming events. The answers can all be found in this newsletter

- 1) The number of Ohio households that treat their own wastewater
 - A) 150,000
 - B) 1,000,000
 - C) 500,000
 - D) 5,000,000
- 2) According to Ohio Dept of Health, what percent of septic systems are failing?
 - A) 3%
 - B) 5%
 - C) 25%
 - D) 50%
- 3) A protected corridor of open land is a:
 - A) freeway
 - B) right-of-way
 - C) beltway
 - D) greenway
- 4) Which of the following 3 are harmful to Ohio's trees
 - A) Gypsy Moth
 - B) Mistletoe
 - C) Beech Scale
 - D) Emerald Ash Borer
- 5) Ohio COVERTS is a project focusing on _____ owners
 - A) woodlot
 - B) game bird
 - C) farmland
 - D) pond
- 6) To avoid fish kill, ponds should be:
 - A) 3-5 feet deep
 - B) drained in the fall
 - C) 8-10 feet deep
 - D) shaded in the afternoon
- 7) The 2004 Lake County SWCD Annual Meeting will be held on what date?

Answers: 1, B; 2, C; 3, D; 4, A, C, and D; 5, C; 6, C; 7, October 7th

LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

125 E. Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

•440-350-2730 (main number) •FAX 440-350-2601

Toll-free •298-3334 ext. 2730 Madison/Perry

•918-2730 Cleveland/Western Lake County

•1-800-899-LAKE outside Lake County only

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-4:00 pm

•E-mail: soil@lakecountyohio.org

•Web site: www.lakecountyohio.org/soil

PAM BROWN, District Secretary/Treasurer	350-2730
DAN DONALDSON, District Administrator	350-2030
CHAD EDGAR, Urban Stream Specialist	350-2032
BETH LANDERS, Education/Information Coordinator	350-2033
BRETT RODSTROM, Stormwater Specialist	350-2092
MATTHEW SCHARVER, Resource Protection Specialist	350-2031
AL BONNIS, District Conservationist, NRCS	350-2730
JOHN NIEDZIALEK, Western Reserve RC&D Coordinator	350-2034

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CAROL FLECK (1995), PAINESVILLE, TREASURER

RICHARD BAKER (1997), MADISON, CHAIR

DWAYNE BAILEY (2003), MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE, FISCAL AGENT

RON MAUK (2004), MENTOR, VICE CHAIR

STEPHANIE BERES (2004), CONCORD, SECRETARY

MEMBER OF:

- American Farmland Trust
- Lake County Farm Bureau
- Nursery Growers of Lake County, Inc.
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

All Lake SWCD and USDA programs and services are available without regard to race, age, gender, national origin, political beliefs, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

The public is invited to attend Lake SWCD's monthly Board meetings, held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at 125 East Erie St., Painesville. Meeting announcements appear under the public agenda in the News-Herald. Please call in advance to let us know you will be attending.

Lake County Soil & Water
Conservation District
125 East Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

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